

# Washington State Patrol Media Release

**Chief John R. Batiste**

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**\*\*\*For Immediate Release\*\*\***

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## **WSP Prepares for Holiday Emphasis**

Troopers of the Washington State Patrol are teaming up with law enforcement agencies throughout the state make this a safer holiday season. It is well known that during this time of year holiday parties are held on Friday and Saturday evenings. This year there will be additional troopers working overtime shifts on those days in an effort to reduce the number of alcohol related collisions.

During the 2007 holiday season there were 31 tragic deaths caused by drinking drivers.

"The holiday season should be a time for families to spend time together in joy and gladness, not in morning and sadness" said Washington State Patrol Chief John Batiste. "Choosing not to drink and drive will help make this holiday season safer."

If you choose to drink alcohol please appoint a designated driver or take a taxi. This will ensure you will be able to celebrate the season at home with your family instead of your family having to spend the holidays picking you up at the jail, sitting beside your bed at the hospital or preparing for a funeral.

Everyone can help reduce the number of alcohol-related collisions by reporting impaired drivers. To report possible drunk drivers please call 9-1-1. Troopers are waiting to hear from you.

Please don't drink and drive.

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